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# THOUGHTS

OF AN

~~Sam. 68~~

## Honest Whig,

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### *Present Proceedings*

OF THAT

# PARTY.

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*In a Letter to a Friend in Town.*

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L O N D O N.

Printed in the Year, 1710.



S I R,

**T**H O' my *Retirement* into the Country, from the Hurry and Noise of a populous and busie trading Town, to enjoy a more healthy and pleasant *Air*, the sweets of *Solitude*, and my *self*, in serious *Contemplations* of the *Instability* of Mundane Affairs, has deprived me of a *Personal* Conversation with so honest and ingenious an *Intimate* as your self, in whose *Society* and *Sentiments* I was always so extremely pleas'd and delighted, that I thought my *withdrawing* from *London*, one of the greatest *Calamities* in that kind that could befall a *thinking* Man; yet I must with great Satisfaction acknowledge my Obligations to your *Learned Pen*, in the Absence of your worthy Person, in taking all Opportunities by an *Epistolary* Correspondence, to assure me, tho' I am out of *Sight*, I have still a Place in your *Memory*, and distance of *Miles* has not extinguish'd our mutual *Friendship*, so early began, so happily continued, and which I hope and pray, may not only be as *durable* as our Lives, but descend to our *Posterities*. Now as this *Familiar* and obliging *Conversation* merits on my Part, a *grateful* Acknowledgment; so I am not without Hope: that it will procure me Indempnity on yours, for taking the freedom in *Answer* to your last *Letter*, to remind you of your *misapprehending* the true State of *Publick* Affairs, in relation to our selves, as *Whigs*, *Republicans*, *Antimonarchists*, *Dissenters*, or what other reproachful Epithets our *Tory*-Adversaries are pleas'd to confer upon us: And to *Lament*, that your *Self* and too many of our other *fast* Friends, are at present eagerly pursuing such Methods for the Re-establishment of the *Good Old Cause*, and preserving themselves in profitable *Posts*, as without a *Miracle* will *Ruin* both, and envelope the *Whigs* in Contempt and Derision, for forfeiting the *great* Power and Advantages we have lately had, by *ambitiously* endeavouring to *Engross* the Whole; of which Mistakes, in Honour and Honesty, I think my self oblig'd to Caution you.

That I am perfectly of your *Religion*, and have the same *Notions* in *Politicks* with your self, is not to be doubted at this time of Day. We sat many Years together in the same *Pew*, under the Ministry of Mr. *Burgefs*. We Weekly kept the same *Clubs*, always *Poll'd* for the same *Members*, *Mayors*, and *Sheriffs*, and were both *Elders* of the same Congregation; and yet I cannot forbear entering my *Protest* against the Measures in your last *Letter*, nor share in the same Joy which you seem to have received in a *Victory* over the *Tory* Party, the *Doctrin* of *Non* *Resistance*,



istance and Passive Obedience, and the Queens Hereditary Rights to the Crown of Great Britain, France and Ireland. I say not this, as if I was inclin'd to shift Sides, or change my Opinion; No, far be such a Thought from me, I am entirely satisfy'd that We are positively in the *Right* and our Adversaries in the *Wrong*; and yet I cannot but say, that the violent *Heats* and *Indiscretion* of many of our Friends, instead of making our Condition better, have render'd it much worse than it was before the *Struggle* began.

We were at *Ease*, in perfect Tranquility, every one of us (that would) sat at quiet, unmolested, under our own *Vines and Fig-trees*. We suffered no *Persecution* for our Consciences in matters of Religion; we were not forc'd to go to the *Steeple-Houses*, nor bow our *Knees* to *Baal*. The *Penal* Laws were taken off; the *Scourge* was no longer shak'd over our Heads; we were *protected* by the Government, equally with the rest of her Majesty's good Subjects; *Tolerated* by Law, and had the *Royal Word* for maintaining that Toleration. We had all the *Freedom* we could ask, all the *Liberty* we could desire; and what Occasion then was there to contend for more? The *Tithe* or Gleanings of these *Immunities* in some former Reigns, would have been thought an *inestimable* Favour and Blessing; but now, tho' we enjoy them all in full Measure, heap'd and press'd down, and for some Years last past have had the largest Share of the Best *Preferments* under the Government, according to our *Capacities*; yet we have wanted *Tongues* to be *Thankful*, and *Hearts* to be *Contented*. Is not this a Reflection upon our Conduct?

Hot Headed Men, never did good to any Cause, nor Covetous Hands to any Society: They that cannot know when they are *Well*, are commonly tampering with State-*Drugs*, 'till they make themselves irrecoverably out of *Order*; and they that undermine *Pillars*, seldom fail of bringing down an *Old House* upon their Heads. This was our Case, may Heaven divert the Omen. The *Tories* courted our Favour, sneak'd to us for mean Employments, and were glad to lick up the *Crums* that fell from our plentiful *Tables*. The Government warm'd us in its *Bosom*, and in requital, 'tis said, we have attempted to sting it to Death.

Was it not the Height of Folly, Indiscretion and Madness, to say no worse, when all Things were at *Quiet* and in perfect *Peace*, under the happiest *Reign* in Nature, and under the Best *Princess* in the Universe, who indulg'd us to a degree of *Towardly* Children, to spurn against the *Breasts* that gave us Suck, and to *cramp* the *Knees* whereon we were *Dandled*? What Reason in the Name of Goodness, had the *Preachers* of our Party, whether in *Steeple-Houses* or *Meeting-Houses*, to raise out of its *Grave* of Oblivion, the *Doctrin* of *Resistance*, after it had been so long

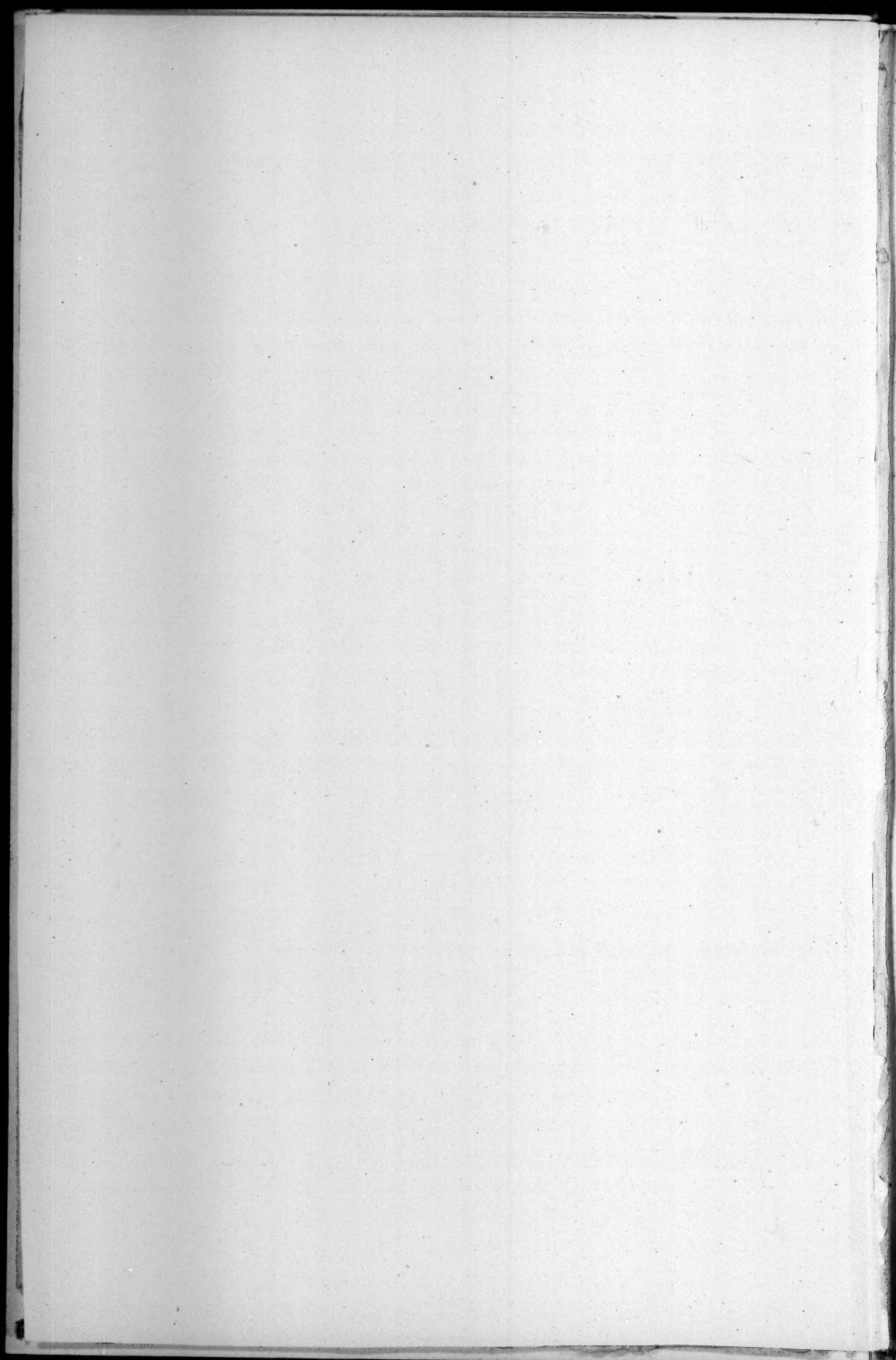
*Dead and Buried*; when there was no Cause, Pretence or *Pro-vocation* in the World for it! Was not this to provoke the poor crawling *Worms*, the Despised *Tories*, when we trod so hard upon 'em, to turn against us, and tho' we had cut and divided 'em into very Minute Pieces, to Unite in *Defence* of their *Darling* Doctrines of *Non Resistance* and *Passive Obedience*? I will not pretend to guess at the fatal Consequences of this *Rash* Attempt, but do affirm, if it should have an *ill Effect* upon our own *Party*, we may thank our selves for being the *Agressors*, and putting Arguments into the *Tories* Mouths, that the profoundest *Scholars* among the *Whigs*, may give ill Names to, but can never answer. Is not this to confirm the Truth of what the *Tories* throw upon us, that we are a *Sturdy, Headstrong, Malecontented People*, that are never contented Full nor Fasting?

Certainly 'twas want of a *Prudent Foresight*, and a *Cool Wise* Consideration, that put our *Preachers* upon Advancing, and our Brethren upon *Countenancing*, the Doctrin of *Resisting* the Supreme Powers in so Extravagant and Open a Manner, before they were surer of *Winning* the *Game* they were Playing. Was not this awakning those that call themselves the *Loyal Party*, and putting them in Mind, that *Resisting* the Supreme Authority, was the Doctrin that begat all the *Mischiefs* and *Miserie* of *Forty One*; that raised a *Bloody War* in the *Bowels* of the Kingdom; that *Eutcher'd* their *Loyal Ancestors*; *Plunder'd* their Goods; *Sequestrated* their *Estates*, made them first *Compound* for their own *Revenues*, and afterwards *Decimated* them at Pleasure; of which their Posterity feel the *sad Effects* to this very Day? Can their *Offspring*, think you, forget the *Ravishing* their *Predecessors Wives, Sisters, and Daughters*; the *Burning* their *Houses*, *Demolishing* their *Castles*, turning their *Temples* into *Stables*, and their *Barnes* into *Conventicles* of *Rebellion*; which at length terminated in the *Barbarous Murder* (as they call it) of the *Lord's Anointed*; Involving the Nation in *Confusion*, and as they (erroneously) say, *Overturning* the very *Foundation* of the *Establish'd Government* in *Church and State*?

Why should our *Unwary*, tho' *Zealous Brethren*, put these *Reproaches* into the Mouths of the *Tories*, before the *Age* is of *Maturity* to distinguish the Right of *Resistance* from the *Sin* of *Rebellion*? since they perfectly know that our *Ignorant Unsanctified Tories* have neither *Wit* or *Grace* enough, to make *Allowance* (when they talk of *Rebellion*) for the peculiar *Priviledges* of the *Saints* in *helping* the *Lord* against the *Mighty*, and that the *Dictates* of their *New Lighted Consciences*, cancel the *Obligation* of all *Oaths* and *Duties* of *Allegiance*. Seasonable *Holding's Forth* are the *Life* of our Cause, and *Mis-timing* the *Ruin* of it!

How





*Hearts of Kings ; and c. 31. v. 1. 5, 6, 7. Watching for Riches consumeth the Flesh, and the Care thereof driveth away Sleep. He that loveth Gold shall not be justified. Gold hath been the ruin of many, and their destruction was present : It is a stumbling-Block unto them that Sacrifice unto it, and every fool shall be taken therewith.* 'Tis true, this is not receiv'd as Canonical, yet what is there in it that we do not find verified to a Tittle either by experience, or the express word of God ? We need but look about, and every Place will furnish us with Instances of Wretches pining away their Flesh, and denying themselves Sleep to heap up Treasure, and when they are gorg'd up to the Throat, yet desire is not satisfied, and they are still as indefatigable as ever in increasing that, they have not the Heart to make use of. How shall the Man be justified that loves Gold, which wholly draws away his Soul from thinking on the End for which it was created ? What more evident Ruin and Destruction, than to see Mortals commit the most enormous of Crimes, and devour one another for Gain, without the least Remorse, or Sense of Humanity ? How do we upbraid the *Jews* for worshipping the Golden Calf, whilst those who call themselves Christians pay no less divine Honours to that Metal, in all Shapes whatsoever ? And what greater Folly, than to be taken with that which waits the Flesh, breaks the Sleep, brings Ruin and Destruction, and becomes the greatest uneasiness of a Death Bed. Yet in this Folly consists the Happiness of the World, the Rich Man is courted, respected, and worshipp'd, even by those who envy, and hate him. His Ignorance passes for Wisdom, his Meanness is ennobled, his foulest Actions are sanctify'd, and in short he is priviledg'd to commit all Absurdities, or Enormities, without being subject to Censure, or Punishment.

Thus

Thus is his Sense depraved so as he never considers what must be the End of all this Delusion, which he may read in Job chap. 27. v. 19. *The rich Man shall lye down, but he shall not be gather'd; he openeth his Eyes and he is not. Terrors take hold on him as Waters, a Tempest stealeth him away in the Night. The East wind carrieth him away, and he departeth; and as a Storm hurleth him out of his place. For God shall cast upon him, and not spare; but he would fain flee out of his Hand. Men shall clap their Hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his Place.*

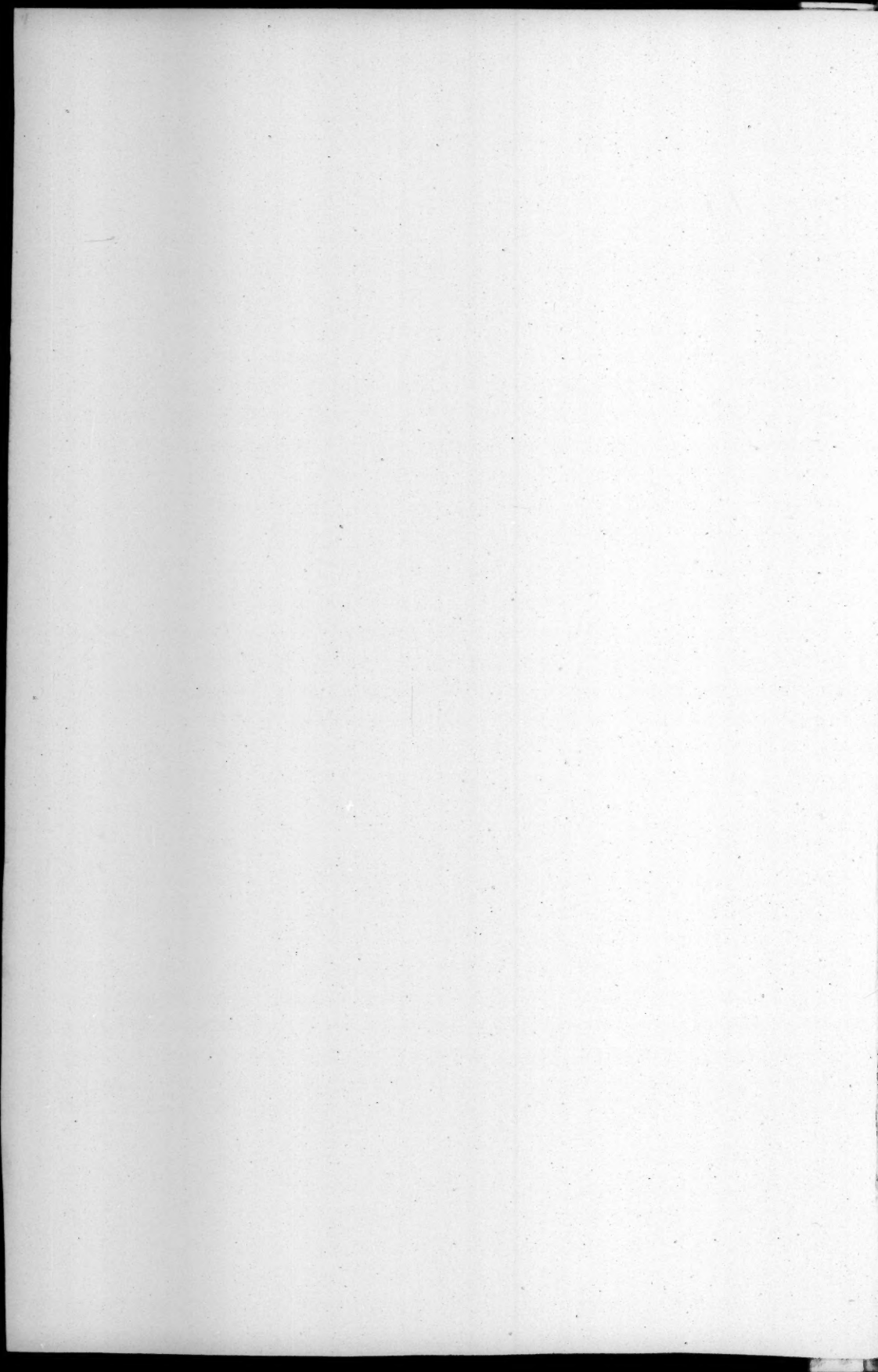
All I have here said of others, I, too late find verif'd in my self. This Consideration has drawn me into such serious Reflections I was so much a Stranger to whilst living, and am now perplex'd with dying. You have often, without all doubt, as became your Profession, much better inculcated these Sentiments into your Auditors, and perhaps with as little Effect, as I now leave them in writing; for the Weeds of worldly Cares soon stop the Growth of the good Seed that is sow'd in us. We value an elaborate Discourse above sound Doctrine, because the former pleases our understanding, whereas the latter grates upon our Consciences. Would to God I had been sooner sensible of this Truth; it would have prevented my Offence, and sav'd the Confusion of this Acknowledgment. And yet this is all the Satisfaction I am capable of making, extorted from me by the Terrors of approaching Death; for had my Life and Health been prolong'd, it is much to be fear'd, I might have persisted in the same State of fatal Blindness and Delusion.

I have not the least Shadow of excuse for my bitter Invectives against you, it was never my Talent to extenuate, but to magnify Offences, and to make them where they did not appear. Being thus qualified, I could not but be a proper Instrument of Malice or Revenge, especially where the Bait of Interest and Applause was at Hand to encourage the undertaking. The whole World is but too sensible of the implacable Animosities that have prevail'd among us for many Years. It would be but reasonable to think the unspeakable Mischiefs and Calamities they brought upon us within the Memory of Man, not to look back beyond the Days of King *Charles* the First, might have rectify'd People's Judgments, and settled their Minds, so as to dread any Innovation, and endeavour to unite in true Christian Principles of Charity, and bearing with one another; and yet how far are we from this so much to be wish'd for Happiness? Religion which ought to link us together in indissoluble Bands of Friendship, is become the Apple of Discord, and the Bane of Human Society. It is not my Province to decide of Right or Wrong in this Case, but rather to lament the Malice of Mankind, which makes the most destructive Poison, of that which Providence ordain'd for their Comfort and Support. What is all the Cry amidst our Distractions, but Religion, and how little of it appears in our Actions, unless we will give that Name to Bigotry, to Enthusiasm, to Hypocrisy, and even to Libertinism, all which are far more prevalent than Religion itself? We are a new Generation grown up since the Bloody Wars between King and Parliament, yet tho' few survive to remember them, they are

Still

still fewer who have not read, or heard of their destructive Effects. Religion then drove the King from his Court, one Religious Party brought his Head to the Block, and another yet more Religious struck it off. One Godly Kingdom sold, and the other more pious bought, and murder'd him. Twenty Years Slaughter and Defolation, worse than a Plague, was the Product of this glorious Zeal for Reformation. No Remedy could be found for such raging Distempers, but the restoring of the injur'd Son of that King they had inhumanly Slaughter'd. Yet, tho' the Cryes of an undone Multitude brought him home, the hardned Hearts of those who had expell'd him never relented, they remain'd the same in Malice, after his Return, that they had been during his Exile. Nor could they be truly so, had they not taken Care to instil their Pernicious Principles into their Children, and to debauch as many others as they found susceptible of their Poison. Thus the Contagion was spread abroad, and gather'd Strength, when it might have been suppos'd to decline and abate. It were easy enough to trace all the Steps that Party took towards their Advancement from the Restoration to this Day, but that my Time is short, and all Men of Observation cannot but have had an Eye upon them. To come to the Point, that Party has been so industrious as to lose none of its Offspring, but rather to gain many Thousand Profelytes among those that were its Adversaries. Of this Truth I have been one unhappy Instance, not to mention many others; for tho' the Son of such a Father as deserv'd, for his Piety and Learning, to be prefer'd to one of the greatest Dignities in the Church, yet I so far degenerated, as to suffer my self to be corrupted,





our selves ; which is a great misfortune among the *Whigs* ; they have more Eyes than *Argus* Abroad, and blinder than *Moles* at Home. Possibly you may think these Reflections are too severe on my Part, but I hope I may be allow'd to declare the *Truth*, and so discharge my Conscience, that I may not partake of other Mens Sins, or flatter my *Whig* Friends to the Destruction of their Cause and Themselves.

What a Noise has been long made by the *Politick Whigs* and *Dissenters*, under several Denominations, about the *Magazine of Original Power in the People ? the Original Contract between the Sovereign and the Subject ;* and I know not how many more *Originals*, of *limited Allegiance*, and the *unlimited and unalienable Right of Resistance*, which certainly are the most desirable, and would be the most welcom *Records* in the World, to Men of our Principles ; who hate to be Limited by any Laws or Customs, but those of our own *Humours* and *Interests*. We are in no little want of all these *Originals*, and diligent search has been made after 'em, but hitherto to very little Purpose: 'Tis true, not long since I was in great expectation of it, upon hearing a Gentleman talk as *Confidently* on that Subject, as if he had had the very *Original Contract* in his *Pocket* ; but after all, it vanish'd into an unintelligible *Phantom*, called an *Implication*, *Anglice* a *New Nothing*, and so I return'd into the Country as *Wise* as I came out. Why do our *Whig* Friends abuse and banter us at this Vile rate ? Had not his *Silence* on that Head been more Edifying like a *Quakers* Meeting, 'till we had opened the *Magazine of Original Power*, and made such an *Original Contract* as would best suit with our own Convenience. To be serious, let our Friends speak *Truth*, or be *silent*, our *Good Old Cause* wants *Power*, not *Shams* and *Falshood* to support it ; if the cannot make our Condition *better* let them not make *worse* by *Chimerical* Suggestions without *Pro-bation*.

Another Assertion of some Learn'd *Whigs*, does no less offend me than the former, *viz. That Preaching Passive Obedience and Non-Resistance in any Case whatsoever, is teaching Men to Rebel and to take up Arms against Her Majesty.* For my part, I think it downright *Nonsense*, or at best a *forc'd Construction*, if so interpreted ; for no Man in his *Senses* could mean it. Nay if the *Preacher* himself should aver that to have been his *Meaning*, he ought to have been sent away immediately to *Bedlam*, to clean *Straw* and a dark *Room*, rather than into the Custody of the *Black Rod*. Now peradventure you will say, I am pleading the Cause of the *Tories*. No, I utterly deny it ; I am talking on behalf of *Unsophisticated Reason*, *Genuine Construction*, and *untribed Consequence*, and if that be a *Fault*, I shall glory in being accounted a *Criminal*, in some Mens *Apprehensions*. What, can't a Man be a *Whig*, but at the same time he must be a *Tool*, only fit to be im-

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pos'd upon? Can't a Man be a *Republican*, but he must be depriv'd of his *Reason*? Can't a Man be a *Dissenter*, but he must forfeit his *Understanding*, and turn *Bruit* to prove he has a *Rational Soul*? No, if these are the *Terms of Admission* into some Mens Friendships, I shall continue a *Stranger* to 'em: And if the *Colliers Creed* to believe *Blindfold*, must be thought *Christianity*, let my Soul remain among the *Philosophers*.

Nor can I with any pretence to *Reason* or *Conscience*, Invest any Mortal, with one of the *Prerogatives* of God Almighty, to know another Mans *Thoughts*, and to Interpret his *Meaning* better than he can himself, as some, and they no mean *Whigs*, have lately pretended to do; which I am of Opinion, is a bold *Imposition* upon Mankind, and so dangerous in the *Consequence*, that no Man can be secure of his *Life*, *Estate* or *Liberty*, where such a wicked Suggestion shall prevail; for if another Person that never saw me before, shall be allow'd to know my *Thoughts* and interpret my *Meaning*, contrary to my plain and exprels Words, he has the Power to dispose of me at his own Will and Pleasure. I urge not this in favour of any Person whatsoever; but with special regard to our selves, as *Whigs* and *Dissenters*; for if as the *Tories* affirm already, that our *Words* and *Actions* are liable to their *wholesom Severities*, how fatal would be our *Destiny*, if they scrutiniz'd our *Thoughts*, and were allow'd to interpret our *Meanings*? Such Proceedings as these, amaze and stagger all the World, and some well-meaning People, that were halting in their Opinions between *God* and *Baal*, between the *Establish'd Church*, and but Indulg'd *Meeting-Houses*, are now entirely confirm'd from our own *Management*, that if *Parties* and *Factions* encrease in the *State*, and *Schisms* and *Seditions* multiply in the *Church*, the *Whigs* are the sole Cause of them, who care not if the whole World were in *Broils* and *Confusion*, so their own *Designs* were answer'd, and their personal *Piques* Reveng'd.

Nor is this my single Opinion, for you know a certain *Titular Lord*, who is intirely in our Interest, has told us by Word of Mouth, and in *Print* too, that the former *Prejudices* of the *Whigs*, against what we call *High-Church*, begin to wear off, and the *Conscientious* and *Wiser* sort of *Dissenters*, flock to the *Steeple-Houses* in great Numbers: And for ought I perceive, if this kind of *Management* is continu'd by our *Party*, and we persecute the *Tories* for *Dissenting* from us, in no less considerable Instances, than *Resisting* or not *Resisting* the Supreme Power, which is the only *Quarrel* between us; I shall also be tempted to bid *Adieu* to the Herd of *Whigs*, and abandon the *Cause*, I have hitherto both in *Purse* and *Person*, so zealously Espous'd and Defended.

How can we excuse or Palliate, our crying out against *Papery* and *Popish Principles*, when at the same time we are fiercely opposing the *Church of England*, which must be allow'd to be the main

main Bulwark against the Invasion of *Romish* Superstition and Idolatry, and whose Members were the only Persons that stem'd the Inundation of *Papery*, and *Arbitrary Power* in a late Reign, whilst we cajold, flatter'd, *Address'd* and *Congratulated* the unfortunate Prince, who was then Eradicating the *Protestant Religion* ! and which is altogether as *bad*, we are now setting up the Doctrine of *Resistance*, which is undeniably a *Popish Doctrine*, and was calculated to support *Popish Tyranny*, in *Destroning* secular Princes ; and that we inculcate too, under the happy Reign of the best of Protestant Princes. Why do we thus heap *Contradiction* upon *Contradiction*, and *Falsity* upon *Falsity* ? When our own *Offences* are already grown so *Mountainous*, that they are in open view of all the World, and some of our *best Friends* have occasionally *reproach'd* us with them.

We complain of a violent Persecution rais'd against us in the Reign of King *Charles II.* and the *Tyranny* exercised over our *Consciences* ; which I mentioning the other Day to one of our *Friends* in the Country of known Integrity ; he desir'd my silence on that Subject ; for says he, We poor unfortunate *Whigs* are so Unhappy, that in our *Selves* or our *Ancestors*, we have been in a higher degree *guilty* of the same *Crimes*, than we can justly charge the *Tories* with. We were persecuted in King *Charles II.* Days, its true ; but if we look back to the Reign of the first *Whigs*, except those in the Reign of *Edw. II.* I mean the *Parliament* that rais'd a *War* against King *Charles I.* we may find an *Ordonance* of that *Parliament*, which they caus'd to be printed and affix'd to the *Directory*, strictly prohibiting the use of the *COMMON PRAYER*, not only in Churches and Families, but even in a *Mans Private Closet*, under the *Penalty* of 5*l.* for the first Offence, 10*l.* for the second, and 20*l.* and a Years Imprisonment, without Bail or Mainprize, for the third : Now says he, I challenge you, and all the *Friends* we have, to produce such an *Instance* in King *Charles II.* Reign, of Persecution and *Tyrannizing* over Mens *Consciences*, as this was : And then he left me to consider, whether *Taciturnity* would not be more commendable among the *Whigs*, than reproaching the *Tories* with our own more apparent Transgressions in the same Instances.

We accuse the *Tories* with *Over-Greatning* our Protestant Princes, and shewing too great a Duty and Obedience to our Sovereign ; or to borrow the Words of the Author of the *Thoughts of an honest Tory*, that they make an extravagant noise about Obedience, the Cloak for Turbulency. And yet Mr. *Alsop*, a Presbyterian Preacher in *Westminster*, in his own, and in the Names of a numerous Train of *Whigs* of his Congregation, in a Printed Address gave thanks to a *Popish Prince*, viz. the late King *James*, for restoring God Almighty to his *Prerogative* over *Conscience* ! Was not this making King *James* greater than God Almighty, that stood in need of his Assistance to be restored to his *Prerogative* ? Which

I also think by the way, borders upon *Blasphemy*. And as if this was not sufficient to shew their Meaning, they wish their *were Windows in their Breasts, that his Majesty might see the Sincerity of their Intentions to do him Service*; and what Service that Monarch employ'd his Tools in, is too well known to be repeated. I am Asham'd and Confounded with the Thoughts, that such *Lending Whigs* should give the *Tories* an Opportunity of upbraiding us with being *Popishly Affected*, and courting a Prince that was Exterminating the *Northern Heresy*, i. e. the Protestant Religion.

The *Tories*, we say, Insult the Queen and Government, which I am afraid to mention, for fear of being told, that a Crew of Confident *Whigs*, lately took upon 'em to direct a certain *Blessed Sovereign* that shall be Nameless, in the Conduct of Family Affairs, and pretended to discover Dangers in the wise Methods that had been taken to prevent them. In short, all their Suggestions were meer *Chimera's*; nothing but Apparitions in their own disturb'd Party Imaginations, and yet were favourably dispos'd, though they very ill required it, by giving out false Reports afterwards.

At so great a distance from *London*, I know not how well you are furnish'd with *Whig* Books and Pamphlets. It has been my unhappiness to meet with none that were worth the Reading on our Side; and therefore, if you have the good Fortune to encounter any, that have either *Modesty, Wit, Sense* or *Truth* in 'em; pray send them by the Carrier, and I'll return the Cost. The *Thoughts of an Honest Tory*, I borrow'd, Read and have return'd it with more Satisfaction, than I had in perusing it; for his *Gown* sake I forbear *Reflection*, and leave him to Mr. C---l to use him as he deserves, for defiling his own *Nest*, and Writing against the Church he has his *Bread* from. He has an *Aversion*, he says, for a *Wag*, and I have a greater for a *Counterfeit*, though he Writes in Favour of the *Whigs*, of which Number I am one; as far as it consists with my *Duty* to the Queen, my *Love* to the Peace and Tranquility of my Country, and the *Welfare* of the Protestant Religion, in all which, I am dear Friend, *Yours*.

